



AGENDA

11th Meeting of the 2022-2023 Student Government Association Senate

November 8th, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Livak Ballroom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Speaker Purple.

Attendance

Senators Ward and Jones not present.

Acknowledgment of the loss to our community. Remembrance of Patrick Munn.

Moment of silence.

Vice Provost Erica Caloiero;

Thank you for the moment of silence, and for your words. I wanted to acknowledge what our community has experienced, and what our student leaders are experiencing in the particular roles and identities that you hold. I want to acknowledge that community can be beautiful, and community can be really rough. In one way we are experiencing a common event, and in other ways we are all going through thousands of unique experiences and reactions and feelings. We've all been impacted by mental health, ourselves, people we love, people we know and people we don't. Many of us have been impacted by suicide. What we're going through in this involuntary community journey, the thing that we have in common is our membership in this community. It is so very important to speak up. To let others know how you're doing, to look your friends in the eyes and ask them how they are. It is also important to know that sometimes that isn't enough. We don't always know how others are doing. It is not your responsibility or

your fault when things that are beyond our control and thoughts and wishes happen. Through taking our time, and feeling our thoughts, seeking help, and reaching out in little and big ways to other people, these are some of the ways that we can move through our community and move through our individual experiences. I had the opportunity to sit with Patrick's family this morning. People ask how they are doing, and the answer is it is awful. They are going through the unimaginable. They were also really moved by how students are responding to Patrick's death. They were incredibly moved by the free hugs, and when I told them there were going to be free hugs on Fridays they had to take a minute. They said that was so Patrick. He was quirky and funny and brilliant. I don't know who here knew him but he was honestly brilliant. He was very very private but very very giving. He was intellectual, and a musician, and the things he was passionate about he didn't do halfway, he did all in. Some of the things that people who did and didn't know him are doing are really important for them to hear. I wanted to say you matter so much, and your presence here, the roles that you choose, and the ways you engage with each other and the times that you dig deep and find compassion, the choices that you make minute by minute, daily, that's community. That's what we have. So thank you, thank you for being here, for pushing yourselves, for the grace and the care that you show each other. Please reach out, share how you're doing, share how others are doing, and let's keep working on this project we call community.

Treasurer Wigon: I wanted to thank you for coming in. As someone who lost their sister to suicide about two and a half years ago, I know how hard it can be to deal with these situations, so I wanted to thank you for coming in and representing what good can come out of a situation like this.

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

Public Forum

Charles Holmes-Hope - Residential Life

- I am very excited to be here. I truly admire this group of students and what you do. I was also a Senator on my student government. I know what you do is hard work and commitment, and you're juggling being a student leader and a student, so hats off to you.
- I arrived here from outside Chicago in July, and in August we moved in 5,965 students. During the summer, my team and I took a lot of time to plan our student experience, things such as construction in the residential halls and the student orientation. We had three successful virtual sessions about what it means to live on campus and be part of a community, and those happened with parents and students across the country.
- In my four months here, I've seen a lot, and we are looking at doing a deep dive on changes to on-campus housing. We are bringing in an external review to really do a top scan of campus housing and look at our system, procedures, and protocols. The goal is to have the review in April, and they will be here for a week. There will be six of them and they will meet with the entire residential life staff, asking about experiences on campus, the good, the bad, and the ugly. I am committed to taking us to the next level of on campus housing. They will provide us with a report of everything, things we should look at that we aren't doing now, what needs to be changed or abandoned. I believe that we

can be a leader in campus housing in the country. It will take time, but I believe that this external review will help us identify what the next steps are here at UVM, and I hope you will all join us and be a part of those chats when they happen.

- The other thing I have to discuss is break billing, which has been a hot button issue for the past two years. At any college campus, we try to provide an unique, exciting, and engaging experience for our students. Our program is innovative, comprehensive, and robust. We are coming off of the pandemic, and one of the things I am pushing with my team is how do we get to go home. How do we support staff who need time off, who want to go home over break? The staff comes in for training before students arrive, and by the time thanksgiving break comes they deserve to rest and go home. There are two schools in our country who told students that they had to go home over break, because staff needed time to go home and recharge. In any campus I've been a part of, we have charged students for break housing. In many schools, the best practice is to charge students for break, because it is outside the normal school year. There are a lot of reasons why this is. I did a scan of how many students generally stay on campus during break, and it is about 200 students. We are moving forward to charge students for break housing this year.

Senator Smith: Have you been given an estimate for how long after they've done their estimate, when the report will be in?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** We are looking at the second week of April to bring them here, and it takes roughly one month to put together the report. Ideally we will get the report by the middle of May, and my team will use the entire month of June to review the report and look at what we need to change, and then we will develop a five year plan with the

entire residential department. I have been a part of other external reviews, and at Kent State we took an entire year to develop a five year plan because we wanted to include the entire department in the planning process.

Senator Lista: I was wondering if you had any plans about supporting RA and residential life staff for the rest of the year?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** I can share a couple things we are working on. We are working fast to hire staff. We know we are short on staff right now, the roles are posted, and we are working on getting candidates to apply to them. Nationwide, campus housing staff has taken a huge hit during the pandemic. We've posted our positions on multiple platforms and are trying our best but the reality is that people are not applying. We are traveling in March to our annual conference on campus life, and then we are going to Wisconsin, where we can meet and interview candidates. I am confident that by next June, 2023, we will be fully staffed.

Senator Lista: How are you going to support the residential advisors? We have a ton of residents in our halls, I currently have 60 residents, and I am just curious about how they are going to be supported.

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** We should be at 160 RAs, and we are currently at 139. So this is an issue on my mind, and we're looking at the budget to make that happen. We are also talking about an RA raise. Any changes will be built into the 2024-2025 budget. I've been looking at every single unit in campus housing and looking at how they are staffed, and how this can be built into the budget. It will take three years to see results as changes have to be built in slowly, so it will take time.

Chair Sorensen: If the new model is adopted where students have to leave for break so that staff can rest, is there going to be a plan for students who cannot go home for break?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** I don't think that we will do that here, as we recognize that there are students who need housing throughout the school year.
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Chair Sorensen: There are universities who don't charge for break housing, what's the difference between universities who do and don't charge for break housing?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** There are many reasons, and one of them is that we have to provide overhead. The power, the water, the plumbing, these things require funding. Think about your parent's houses and the bills they have to pay. I have to continue to pay campus bills, so that is why we have to charge students for housing, so that we can pay for the services year round.

Chair Sorensen: How do other universities make up that cost?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** They do it through many ways. They do it through room and board fees, early arrival, damage fees, etc.

Senator Carpenter: Going off of that, if we do similar methods to build in those overheads, those will continue over break whether or not students are there.

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** There are more things that we do throughout the school year. If students are here during break housing, there's an association with the charge. We put in the charge to keep these things on during the school year, etc.

Senator Carpenter: What specifically is the money paying for?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** It is paying for staff salaries, it is paying for RA's, the staff that is here over the break. Those funds pay for things used over the break.

Senator Carpenter: Contractually, what do the benefits for staff look like in terms of pay and leave over break?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** We're trying to do a lot of things to support staff, to bring staff here and retain them. It's going to take time to figure out everything in the organization, but we are working on building things in.

Treasurer Wigon: Are the fees for the overhead not built into the regular student housing fees?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** Our budget goes to a lot of things around the university; facilities, debt, maintenance, construction, reserves. Every year we make a budget for the year and move funds so that we don't raise room and board. The money that we have in our budget goes throughout the institution, and there are a lot of factors that go into it. None of our funding comes from the university. We are an auxiliary, and we make our own money and pay back the university through bonds.

Treasurer Wigon: So do you hold payment for everything in the dorms?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** We pay for everything. Think about water waste, facilities, board and room, etc. We get no support, and pay for everything ourselves. Auxiliaries are dining, parking services, and campus residential life. Every campus has these as auxiliaries.

Senator Siegel: In making this new budget for 2024-20205, are you thinking of allocating any forgiveness funds or money to students who have no other option but to stay on campus? We just heard a very emotional story about a student asking for money and pleading for money because he couldn't go home because his home in a war, so is there anything that your team could provide so that SGA

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** I had that chat with my team about how we could best support students. Could we create a national scholarship? At King State, we had a grant that supported bipoc students. Looking at ways that we can help UVM's students is top of my mind. It's going to take time to build it into the budget, and look at what our intention is.

Senator Charles: Can I ask if residential life has tried to raise salaries to attract talent and raise salaries for current staff to retain talent? Has reslife asked for assistance from the university?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** I have looked at all of our staff's PD's. We are looking at how to pay our staff based on the market in Vermont and national trends. We are looking at that to align salary to the position to attract the best and brightest.

Senator Charles: Have you thought about socializing the break funds through normal room and board costs? For thanksgiving and spring breaks, say you only have 50 students staying, can this be paid for?

- **Charles Holmes-Hope:** I will look into that. My team is talking through other scholarships we can look at, financial aid that can waive fees, and other options for our students to take advantage of. I am currently in chats with financial aid to talk about how these fees can be paid for.

Old Business

Bill Recognizing Quizbowl Club

- Bill Sponsored by Senator Khan.
- Introduction to club signers.
- Quizbowl is a competitive trivia club, like Jeopardy without the money. You work in teams of four and you compete against other schools.

Senator Daniels: Do you guys have an Instagram or a place where we can follow what you are doing?

Response: I was just thinking about making an Instagram. Currently we have a groupme and a discord server.

Chair MacHarrie: Are there categories to this trivia, or do they switch up? You said jeopardy and now I'm excited.

Response: You don't get to pick the category, but there are different categories.

Chair MacHarrie: How hard is this Quizbowl?

Response: It generally depends on the level. There is a difference between middle school and high school competitions with the college level, and there is also a difference between local competitions and national competitions. The national competitions do get challenging.

- Bill: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Khan abstained.

Bill Recognizing Yoga and Meditation Club

- Sponsored by Senator Hogan

Senator Lista: What is your favorite yoga pose?

Senator Hogan: Child's pose.

Senator Siegel: Will there be hot yoga?

Senator Hogan: Yes, there will be. They are partnering with a yoga studio downtown that will provide hot yoga.

- Bill: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Hogan abstained.

Bill Recognizing Agriculture Club

- Sponsored by Senator Lista
- Gives anybody who is interested in agriculture the opportunity to travel around to farms and see how they are run and a chance to volunteer. Gives anyone with an agriculture major an opportunity to look for employment opportunities and make connections.

Senator Rosegard: Do you need to be majoring in agriculture?

Response: No, it's open to every UVM student.

- Bill: **Passed** unanimously, Senator Lista abstained.

Emergency Business

- Emergency bill allocating funds for UVM Men's Rugby.
- Request \$21,000 for travel to the national tournament, receiving \$13,000.
- Bill: **Passed** unanimously.

New Business

Bill Recognizing Students Demand Action

Bill Recognizing Fresh Music Club

Bill Recognizing Take One Theater Company

Senatorial Forum

Senator Lista: We are planning on doing midterm elections early this year, before break. It's going to be December 1st and 2nd, and platforms are due November 28th, the Monday after break. Packets and info sessions next week. If there is anyone who is definitely not going to be in Senate next year, please reach out to me because I am not going to be in Senate next year so I need somebody to take this over.

Senator Carpenter: If none of the seniors want to do it, if you do it I just want to remind you that you can't run, but you can still be appointed.

Senator Orr: Is the election chair for next semester?

Senator Lista: Yes.

Senator Kerin: I can also help.

Senator Smith: For those considering, you are the elections chair but you get two other senators to be on the committee, and you can pick people you know will help you.

Senator Carpenter: Can those two people return next year if they run?

Senator Smith: I believe so, yes.

VP Wood: We talked a bit about the ethics of the election chair being in someone in the senate, and I would urge you to think about the ethics of running elections while you plan to participate in the election. .

Executive Reports

Speaker Purple

- I am so proud of everyone for all the work you are doing, how you're conducting yourselves and supporting each other. it's amazing to see everyone so involved with lots

of different things. Please take care of yourselves, look out for each other. We have a couple weeks left and I urge you to wrap up projects you are working on if you're not coming back.

- Placards will be here at some point.

Vice President Wood

- Apologies for not being there, I am still testing positive for Covid.
- You can always reach out to me for anything.
- Senator Daneils, Senator Jones and I are working on organizing the Disabled Student's Unions and the affinity space.
- SGA sweatshirt forms will be sent out soon.
- Fun Fact: 77% of the VT landscape is covered in trees.

Senator Lista: If we're not going to be here can we get our sweatshirt saved?

VP Wood: They should be delivered by the end of the semester, so you should be able to get yours.

- If you are leaving, you have to tell me by December 8th (or now!).

Chair Robinson: I would also like to know now so that we know the correct number of seats.

President Henson

- Ad hoc for student success has been organized. Those who are on it have been notified.
- Had a great meeting with Provost Prelock and Senator Siegel and Hillel student leadership on how we can combat ignorance on Judaism and Zionism, and specifically about the remodulation of D1 and D2 courses. We also talked about how to better educate faculty on religious holiday class exemptions. You usually have to let your professors

know within the first two weeks, but some students just don't know, so making sure faculty understands these changes.

- VP Wood and I are doing dean check-ins, seeing where deans and colleges need help. The student advisory board project will be meeting soon, if you want to join in that meeting please reach out.
- For student trustees, the selection committee has nine seats. Please reach out if you are an off-campus senator, I need two to be on the selection committee. All you would be doing is looking at applications over winter break, and conducting interviews.
- Following up on the conversation about this weekend and mental health, we will be staffing the P/VP office to talk or chat or find resources if anyone needs anything.
- Fun Fact: The placental blood volume increases to 1 liter per minute at the end of term.

Chair Meunier: As far as the positions you are looking to fill, I will volunteer.

Treasurer Wigon

- Had our budgeting workshop today. Lots of clubs attended, we have a short list of clubs who didn't show up.
- Budgets due January 31st at 3:00pm.
- Meeting with Meg on Thursday to go over vans.
- Pushing forward on break housing.
- I will be dethroned on December 2nd, but I will be helping the finance committee and the search for a new treasurer.

Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee

- We pushed our newsletter back to next week in lieu of recent events, so if you have anything that you would like included, send it.
- Going to be working with Senator Lista about elections in the future.
- We just came up with a new schedule for tiktoks.
- Looking for programming for the new TV in the SGA office.
- Met with Senator Carpenter about taking over the dining hall pizza project, so if you are interested in helping with that I think we're going to a blitz right before finals to raise morale.

Committee on the Environment

- Senator Collins, Senator Johnson, and Senator Boudreau are working on a project, also finding a guest to come speak.
- Senator Charles working on campus bookstore posters.
- Senator Johnson has a meeting with the director of the UVM sustainable waste management lab.

Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

- I will be in the SGA office a lot this week if anyone wants to talk, my number is also in the email. Please take care of yourselves.
- Congrats to the people who made it to the ad hoc.
- Senator Ward is continuing to work with the Wage Center.
- Senator Rai is on the planning committee for a women of color empowerment retreat.
- Senator Daniels is working on the affinity space with Senator Jones and VP Wood.
- I had a meeting with the Prism Center, talking about future plans, marketing, and what they might be doing.

- President Henson and I will be having regular meeting with Elliot Ruggles about sexual violence prevention and the upcoming April project.

Senator Carpenter: When you talked to the Wage Center did you dig into their financials at all and their funding for the next five years?

Chair MacHarrie: I would talk to Senator Ward about that.

Committee on Legislative and Community Affairs

- This Sunday, November 13th is the Community Cleanup at 9am. We're meeting in the SGA office to start and we'll head out into the neighborhoods from there.
- Fun Fact: This day in 1895, x-rays were discovered.

Senator Boudreau: Is the community cleanup this for SGA only?

Chair Eisenberg: Anyone is welcome. I want to attest to the cleanup last year, I made so many friends

Chair Meunier: What is it?

Chair Eisenberg: You will get split up into groups of three, and you'll get a map with streets to go down with trash bags. It's basically just cleaning up the neighborhoods.

Chair McHarrie: Is there a procedure for when you find sharps or needles?

Chair Eisenberg: Yes there is, and we will go over that before we start. Also, if anyone has a truck we could use to drive around and pick up trash bags please let me know.

Treasurer Wigon: SGA has a truck.

President Henson: How long do you estimate it to take?

Chair Eisenberg: About two hours.

Student Action and Well-Being Committee

- Making good progress on all of our projects
- Senator Sanford working on Instagram, working with Annie Valentine about getting Plan-B and Pregnancy tests in Living Well.
- Senator Orr working on the dining survey.
- Senator Batyrshina is working with Wellness Environment on yoga and fitness opportunities.
- Senator Jones working on the disabled students union and the affinity space project.
- Ad hoc week of kindness debrief went well, and we are looking to plan another possibly around Valentines Day or finals weeks.
- You will be getting a form on a mindfulness workshop that is upcoming.
- Thinking about having free hug Fridays, there will also be a form for that coming up soon.

Senator Siegel: So many people love the strawberry thing, and I think it would be cool to put big posters of affirmations with the strawberry around campus.

Chair Dietrich: I will definitely think about that.

Club Affairs Committee

- Three more clubs upcoming next week, more in the future.
- Shout out to Senator Lista for taking on elections.

Academic Affairs Committee

- Reached out to the faculty senate to come in and talk about various projects and receive feedback.

- Senator Siegel and Senator Bednarik met with VP Wood and President Henson got some feedback on her project.
- Senator Bednarik and Senator Le have upcoming meeting with KC Williams.
- On pace to meet timelines for our various projects.

Finance Committee

- Doing our spending bills, look for upcoming bills next week.
- Introduced the new SGA policies at the budgeting workshop.
- Last day to PO is Nov. 11th.
 - **Treasure Wigon:** I want to point out that Chair Sorensen has no idea what karaoke is.
 - **Chair Sorensen:** I want to point out that Treasure Wigon hid in the corner and refused to be present for the lip syncing.

Senatorial Comments/Announcements

President Henson: Apparently if you stick your hand into dirt or soil for seven minutes it raises your serotonin levels. On that note, I will be staying after the meeting to talk if anyone wants to.

Senator Siegel: UVM Men's Soccer America East Semifinal, Thursday at 7:00pm.

Senator Carpenter: Saturday is Noche de Cultural, Grand Maple Ballroom at 6:30pm. Cycling is raising money by biking around the circle from 12pm to 12am. Every lap is a dollar.

Chair MacHarrie: Are you really riding from noon to midnight?

Senator Carpenter: I plan to do it for at least five hours. We need money.

Treasurer Wigon: I'll give a dollar for every student you hit with a bike.

Senator Kerin: UPB's Pub Quiz tomorrow at 9:00pm, I am running it. Also UPB's Clothing Swap, Friday Nov. 11th at 9:00am.

Adjournment